

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

***This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:***

1. (Previously presented) Device for removing and smearing cells for a cytological examination with a handle at whose front end a device for the collection of the cells is arranged, in which a stabilizing device acting in the longitudinal extension of the device is arranged, whereby the device is embodied as a cap that is arranged and fixed on a carrier and the carrier features a base surface whose diameter is smaller than the diameter of the base surface of the device, whereby the stabilization is embodied as a tip projecting into the device, which tip is surrounded on all sides by a foam material, characterized in that the device (2) is embodied as a cone tapering towards the front and the handle (1) features a predetermined breaking point (9).
2. (Previously presented) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the device (2) is arranged so that it can rotate relative to the handle (1).
3. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the device (2) features a foam material layer on its outer side (12).
4. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the device (2) is composed of foam material.
5. (Previously presented) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier (3) a base surface (31) with a diameter of 9 mm to 11 mm, preferably 10 mm, and the diameter of the device (2) is 12 mm to 18 mm, preferably 15 mm.
6. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that a locking mechanism (4) is provided for the torsionally rigid positioning of the device (2) on the handle (1).

7. (Previously presented) Device according to claim 6, characterized in that the locking mechanism (4) is embodied as a positive engagement element that can be pushed along the longitudinal extension (5) of the handle, which element in the locked position engages in at least one correspondingly embodied recess (6).
8. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~, characterized in that positive engagement element (4) is embodied as a flattening, a shoulder, a projection, or a tothing in the sawtooth profile.
9. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 7 ~~or 8~~, characterized in that a spring element loads the positive engagement element (4) in the unlocking direction.
10. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 3 to 9~~ claim 3, characterized in that the carrier (3) is pivoted relative to the handle (1) and features either a positive engagement element (4) or a recess (6).
11. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the handle (1) features an angular cross-section or a round cross-section with a structured surface.
12. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the device (2) features a foam material for the cell collection with a pore number of 25 to 40 ppi, preferably 32 to 36 ppi, especially preferably 34 ppi.
13. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the device (2) features a foam material for the cell collection with a compressive strength of 2 to 6 kPa, preferably 3 to 5 kPa, especially preferably 4 kPa.

14. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the device (2) features a cone angle of 20° to 35°, preferably 25° to 30°, especially preferably 27°.
15. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the stabilization (23) features a length of 85% to 95%, preferably 87% to 93%, especially preferably 90%, of the length of the device (2).
16. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the handle (1) features a diameter of 3 mm to 8 mm, preferably 4 mm to 7 mm, especially preferably 5 mm to 6 mm.
17. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the handle (1) features a total length (91) of 150 mm to 250 mm, preferably 180 mm to 220 mm, especially preferably 200 mm.